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Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, CCD
SUBJECT: CCD: FRG STATEMENT ON REDUCED BLAST/ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPONS, MARCH 16, 1978

REF: A. STATE 68555

1. DURING CCD PLENARY ON MARCH 16, FRG REP (PFEIFFER) MADE A STATEMENT ON RB/ER WEAPONS ISSUE AND THE REPORT OF THE SEISMIC EXPERTS' GROUP.

2. THE TEXT OF THAT PORTION OF THE FRG STATEMENT DEALING WITH RB/ER ISSUE FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT:

THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION IS A PURE DEFENSE ALLIANCE. IT HAS THE OBJECTIVE TO PREVENT WAR AND TO MAKE PEACE MORE SECURE. IN SIGNING THE FINAL ACT OF HELSINKI ALL MEMBER STATES OF THIS ALLIANCE HAVE RECONFIRMED THEIR ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLE LAID DOWN IN THE UN CHARTER TO RENOUNCE FROM THE THREAT OR USE OF FORCE. FURTHERMORE, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAS
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SOLEMNLY UNDERLINED THIS RENUNCIATION IN TREATIES SIGNED WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OBJECTIVES THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION DECIDES ON ITS WEAPON ARSENAL ONLY WITH REGARD TO ITS DEFENCE REQUIREMENTS. UP TO NOW, NO

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DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN ON INTRODUCING THE REDUCED BLAST ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPON. THIS QUESTION WILL HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH IN DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT ATTACHES GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO PROGRESS IN DISARMAMENT AND ARMS LIMITATION. SUCH PROGRESS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED BY PROPOSALS AIMING AT ONE-SIDED ADVANTAGES. ON THE CONTRARY, THE PREREQUISITE FOR ANY PROGRESS IN DISARMAMENT AND ARMS LIMITATION ARE PROPOSALS BASED ON RECIPROCITY AND BALANCE. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ALSO IN FUTURE ALL EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT ARMS LIMITATION ON THE BASIS OF THESE CONDITIONS.

THE REDUCED BLAST ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPON IS NOT A NEW WEAPON. IN COMPARISON WITH TRADITIONAL TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AS THEY EXIST ALSO IN THE ARSENALS OF THE WARSAW PACT, ONLY THE PROPORTION OF BLAST AND HEAT EFFECTS TO INITIAL RADIATION HAS BEEN CHANGED. ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRODUCE NEUTRON RADIATION. THE SOVIET MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILES PRODUCE MANY TIMES MORE NUCLEAR RADIATION THAN THE REDUCED BLAST ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPON WOULD DO.

THE QUALIFICATION AS A "MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPON" APPLIES MUCH MORE TO THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS OF THE WARSAW PACT, WHICH HAVE A MUCH GREATER DESTRUCTIVE CAPACITY, IN PARTICULAR THE NEW SOVIET MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILE SS-20.
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ITS DESTRUCTIVE CAPACITY IS SOME THOUSAND TIMES GREATER THAN THAT OF THE REDUCED BLAST ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPON. FURTHERMORE, THE SS-20 BY ITS LONGER RANGE CREATES A MOST SERIOUS THREAT TO THE CIVIL POPULATION IN WESTERN EUROPE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE REDUCED BLAST ENHANCED RADIATION WEAPON WITH ITS SHORT RANGE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED FOR DEFENSIVE USE AGAINST MILITARY TARGETS, FOR EXAMPLE TANK FORCES. THEREFORE, ONLY AN AGGRESSOR WOULD HAVE TO FEAR THE USE OF THAT WEAPON. ITS LIMITED DAMAGE RADIUS DOES MUCH LESS JEOPARDIZE THE LIVES OF THE CIVIL POPULATION THAN TRADITIONAL TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

WE CANNOT ACCEPT THAT ONE SPECIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPON SYSTEM IS PICKED OUT IN A ONE-SIDED MANNER WITHOUT PUTTING IT INTO THE WHOLE CONTEXT OF EAST-WEST BALANCE OF MILITARY STRENGTH. APART FROM THE ALREADY MENTIONED ENORMOUS SOVIET POTENTIAL IN NUCLEAR MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILES THE CONTINUOUS EFFORTS OF THE WARSAW PACT IN STRENGTHENING ITS CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS BUILD-UP IN ALL FIELDS MUST BE RECALLED. END TEXT.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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